



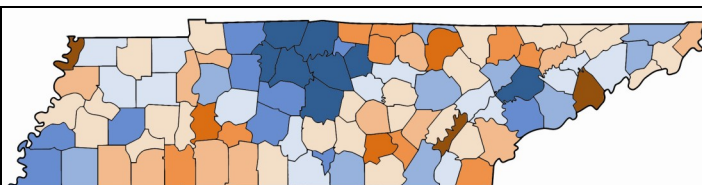
## TECW Report: 2012 Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women recently released the newest update of its highly regarded County-by-County assessment of targeted economic indicators across the state. Presented to hundreds of attendees at the Ninth Annual Economic Summit on Women, the study discusses topics ranging from median income and the wage gap, to educational attainment, healthcare access and standards of living. The first study was done in 2005. "In producing this second work, it is very clear that women have made important gains in Tennessee, but it is equally evident the Tennessee Economic Council on Women's role as a research agency focused on women

and women's issues continues to be of vital need," said Yvonne Wood, chair of the Council.

The 2012 report uses new data available from the 2010 census and thousands of pieces of information from sources that include the American Community Survey, the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Report and the Tennessee Department of Education to compile the second volume in this comprehensive series.

Several targeted indicators were used to shape this statewide document. "We are pleased to report that the decade's hardships have not held women down," said William Arth lead researcher on the study. "Median incomes have improved statewide, as have the numbers of diplomas and degrees, and the rate at which women



Tennessee's counties were compared and ranked in thirteen indicators, ranging from female median income to healthcare access and degree attainment. Blue counties compared most favorably while brown counties offer the most challenges for women.

participate in the workforce." The report also reveals fewer girls are dropping out of high school, and the difference in wages between men and women has decreased. "But it is clear women that have not escaped the recession unscathed," he explained. "Unemployment rates have increased in nearly every county and women have seen dramatic shifts in living standards – many are finding it harder to gain access to affordable healthcare, and even more have slipped into poverty, particularly single mothers."

The statewide status report and the individual snapshot for each of Tennessee's 95 counties can be found [here](http://www.tennesseewomen.org), or by going to [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org).



Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks and Senior Research Manager Bill Arth respond to questions about the County Report.

## 2012 Summit for Women Builds Relationships, Educates

October's Ninth Annual Summit brought together more than 350 political and business leaders dedicated to improving the economic status of women and girls in Tennessee. The day's keynote speakers, Lilly Ledbetter, namesake for the Fair Pay Restoration Act signed into U.S. law in 2009; Laurel Bellows, President of the American Bar Association; and speech coach Deb Sofield provided personal insights into the national battle over equal pay, negotiation tactics and public speaking.

The Council also used the gathering to recognize the work of several community leaders and students. Dr. Shirley Hastings of the University of Tennessee Extension Services; Anita Vaughn, CEO of Baptist

Women's Hospital; and Deloitte received the agency's "E-Awards" for their significant support of women and women's programs. College scholarships were awarded to six women, representing traditional and non-traditional students from West, East & Middle Tennessee.

"This year's Summit forged more and stronger alliances between the Economic Council on Women and other groups statewide and nationally," said Yvonne Wood, Chair of the Economic Council on Women. "We look forward to a more rewarding collaboration than ever before, fulfilling our shared mission to advance opportunities for Tennessee women and girls."

*Find pictures from the Summit on page 2...*

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More than 350 women attended the Summit to participate in general and breakout sessions on topics including negotiation, fair pay, entrepreneurship and healthcare, which were presented by issue experts and nationally renowned speakers like Lilly Ledbetter, ABA President Laurel Bellows, and speech coach Deb Sofield, as well as representatives from industry leaders like Nashville's own St. Thomas Health.

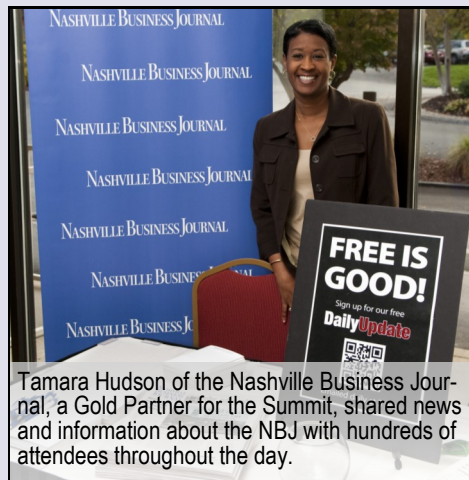
(Left:) Memphis State Representative and TECW Council Member Johnnie Turner (D-85) asks a question during Lilly Ledbetter's general session. (Right:) ABA President Laurel Bellows presents negotiation strategy and tips for women.



The Summit agenda allowed numerous opportunities for networking and fellowship between speakers and attendees, who included business owners, elected officials, marketing and media professionals, homemakers, students, advocates and more. Attendees were also afforded opportunities to engage with over twenty different exhibitors and vendors from state agencies, colleges, local businesses and Tennessee's only pewter smith.



TECW's six scholarship winners meet with scholarship sponsors from Dell, UPS and the Nashville Electric Service; keynote speaker Lilly Ledbetter, TECW Council Chair Yvonne Wood and scholarship program chair Pat Pierce.





## 2013 Projects Underway

Dear Colleagues,

Planning for the TECW's 2013 programs on domestic violence, human trafficking and workforce development have begun in earnest, and we are excited to share with you a glimpse into what we are planning.



The Council's primary research goal in 2013 will be to hold hearings in each of the state's nine development districts to study the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women in Tennessee. Our first study of domestic violence as an economic inhibitor was done in 2006, and we are excited, not only to update state-specific information, but to broaden our approach and collect more reliable, relevant data for 2013. This year, we will also be incorporating a component about human trafficking in Tennessee – an emerging issue that has received increased exposure across our nation.

Our second focus in 2013 will be our Women & Work Project. While details about this effort are still developing, our goal is to marshal the many public and private sector resources available to female jobseekers, students and would-be entrepreneurs in our state, and to provide a single point of contact through which Tennessee women can access them.

We are very excited about our upcoming work, and look forward to keeping you informed each step of the way!

Regards,

Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## New Members Join TECW Council

*New appointees add experience in health research, higher education, business ownership, and government relations.*



**Veronica Marable Johnson** serves as the Director of Programs and Operations for the Center for Women's Health Research at Meharry Medical College. The Center is the nation's first research facility devoted exclusively to understanding why women of color are at greater risk of certain diseases and how biology, race, and economics contribute to health disparities. Veronica began her professional career with First American National Bank (now Regions), utilizing her BBA in Accounting from Austin Peay State University. Both in and out of the workplace, Ms. Johnson has long been a passionate advocate on behalf of women of color.



**Dr. Janet Smith** became the fifth president of Columbia State Community College in February 2008. Prior to joining Columbia State, Dr. Smith served in various administrative roles at several institutions of higher education across the country, including her time as President of Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, Arkansas. She has been honored for her leadership in community colleges by the Governor of Arkansas and the Kentucky Legislature. Among many other accolades, Dr. Smith is Past President of the Tennessee College Association and a member of the national advisory board for the Higher Education Research and Development Institute.

**Ruby Miller** is a native of Spartanburg, South Carolina. She received her bachelor's degree in business education from Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. Following graduation, she was recruited by Union Carbide Corporation to work at the nuclear facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Miller held positions of increasing responsibility with Union Carbide and Martin Marietta Energy Systems, including associate director of Public Relations and manager of Small Business and Socioeconomic Programs. In 1990, she resigned from the company to start her own State Farm Insurance Agency which provides insurance products and financial services to individuals and small



**Kristi Stanley** is a Memphis resident with extensive experience in legislative relations and government affairs. In addition to serving on staff with Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn and Congressman Stephen Fincher, Ms. Stanley was a longtime director of government affairs for the Memphis Area Home Builders before becoming government affairs specialist for Caissa Public Strategy in Memphis. Ms. Stanley was appointed to the Council by Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey, with high praise for her experience in policy areas involving business and job creation.



## TECW Calendar of Upcoming Events

**January 4, 2013**

Winter Quarterly Meeting-Nashville

**January 18, 2012**

Violence Against Women Hearing  
Chattanooga

**May 17, 2013**

Spring Quarterly Meeting-Nashville

**June 14, 2013**

East Tennessee Women's Leadership  
Conference-Knoxville

**August 16, 2013**

Annual Retreat

**August 17, 2013**

Summer Quarterly Meeting

**October 20-21, 2013**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Summit for Women  
Nashville

**October 22, 2013**

Fall Quarterly Meeting



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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc*

*Center for Women's Health Research  
at Meharry Medical College*

*Rosemary Frank, MBA, CDFA*

*Women in Higher Education*

*Coalition of 100 Black Women  
Nashville Metropolitan Chapter*

*Women's Political Collaborative*

*Tennessee Women's Forum*

*Rutherford CABLE*

*AAUW*

***Thank You To Our 2012 Summit Partners! Watch For News About Our 2013 Event!***